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"IN OCCASIONEM."

What creature thou? Occasion I doe shewe.  
On whirling wheele declare why doste thou stande?  
Bicause, I still am tossed too, and froe,  
Why doest thou houlde a raser in thy hande?  
That men maie knowe I cut on euerie side,  
And when I come, I armies can deuide.  
But wherefore hast thou winges vpon thy feete?  
To shewe, how lighte I flie with little winde.  
What meanes longe lockes before? that suche as meete,  
Maye houlde at firste, when they occasion finde.  
Thy head behinde all balde, what telles it more?  
That none shoulde houlde, that let me slippe before.  
Why doest thou stande within an open place?  
That I maye warne all people not to staye,  
But at the firste, occasion to imbrace,  
And when shee comes, to meete her by the waye.  
Lysippus so did thinke it best to bee,  
Who did deuise mine image, as you see.

[1586].

The source is Alciati.

Southwell, 'Compl. poems'; ed. by Grosart, London, 1872, p. 76:13

Tyme weares all his lockes before,  
Take thy hould upon his forehead;  
When he flyes he turnes no more,  
And behinde his scalpe is naked.  
Workes adjourn'd have many staies,  
Long demurres breede new delays.

[1595].

The question asked by Professor Matzke as to whether "the common verse" alluded to by Bacon in his essay "On delays" could be a reference to "Fronte capillata, etc.," may be answered in the affirmative.

Earlier again than in the essay just quoted, Bacon had shown his knowledge of the allegory in his 'Novum Organum'; ed. by Fowler, Oxford, 1878, p. 318:

"Et verissimum certe est quod de occasione sive fortuna dici solet, si transferatur ad naturam: videlicet, eam a fronte comatam, ab occipitio calvam esse."

This passage deserves notice, also on account of the words *de occasione sive fortuna*.

KARL PIETSCH.

Chicago (Newberry Library).

ON THE ITALIAN METRICAL VER-  
SION OF THE KNIGHT OF THE  
SWAN.

"La Storia della Regina Stella e Mattabruna," published in vol. vii, no. 4, of the *Publications of the Modern Language Association*, has been recently examined by H. Varnhagen in his publication,

13 Heywood, 'Proverbs' (1546); ed. by J. Sharman, London, 1874, p. 12.

"Ueber eine sammlung alter italienischer drucke der Erlanger Universitaetsbibliothek. Ein beitrage zur kenntnis der italienischen literatur des 14. und 15. jahrhunderts. Nebst zahlreichen holzschnitten." Erlangen, 1892."

This collection of old prints of Italian chapbooks had already been the theme of a discourse, delivered by Professor Varnhagen at the fifth "Allgemeiner Deutscher Neuphilologentag" held in Berlin (Whitsuntide, 1892), and a short sketch of this contribution appeared in the *Neuphilologisches Centralblatt*, No. 10, October, 1892, pp. 298-300. The collection here noted belonged originally to the physician and natural philosopher, Cristoph Jakob Trew at Nurembergh; after his death, in 1769, the university of Altorf came into possession of it, and later on the university of Erlangen acquired it. There are twenty-one prints, but we find neither the imprint and the year of publication, nor any acknowledgment of the author and printer, with the one exception of No. xvi ('Storia della Regina Stella e Mattabruna'), where, at the end, the name of Joannes, dictus Florentinus, is found, who (as Varnhagen shows) is only a printer, whose name is likewise found at the end of similar old prints, and who lived at Venice about 1500. In order to fix the date and origin of the prints Varnhagen, after studying the character of the type, woodcuts, and paper, comes to the conclusion that they were published about the year 1500 at Venice and Florence. Varnhagen enters into the particulars of the prints (pp. 16-60), which contain poems, written chiefly in the "ottava rima" as most Italian chapbooks. After the description of the prints, the beginning, end, and occasionally parts of the text are given; twenty-three wood-cuts accompany the analyses, to which references for intercomparison have been annexed.

"La storia di Mattabruna" (described pp. 48-51) is the title of the poem which was the subject of my former study. The number of the stanzas is here likewise seventy-nine; the edition was hitherto unknown. The text shows no remarkable differences on comparison with the text recently published, which is, it is true, not free from a great number of errors, as it was not possible to send me the proof-sheets. Punctuation and accents are

here still less employed than in the later editions. Nos. 7-15 and 17-24 of the readings added to the published text correspond to the edition of the collection of Erlangen, which edition seems to be anterior to the other known editions, and the short title of "Storia di Mattabruna," not found in any other edition, may warrant this supposition.

Varnhagen says (p. 50) that the Italian poet has changed the number of the seven children, found in the French redactions, into that of four, since he might have heard that at most four twin children, but not seven twin children are natural. But there is still another French redaction of the Knight of the Swan, the manuscript of which is at Turin, where, likewise, only four sons of the same age are in question. 'Sone de Nansay' (or Nausay) is the title of this poem, which was composed at the beginning of the fourteenth century by a certain Branque, in accordance with the desire of the "dame de Baruth," who descended from the dukes of Brabant. Scheler, 'Le Bibliophile Belge,' t. i. (Brussels, 1866) p. 257, has reprinted the corresponding sketch in prose which precedes this French poem, and there we read:

"Houdouranz . . . . . eut puis espousée Matabruna, la plus male femme qui fust, si en ot le roi Oriant, et Oriant ot Elouse, si en ot iv fieus à un lit et nasqui cascuns atout une cainette d'or; Matabruna haoit Elouse, si esraye (=arrache) l'un enfant sa cainette, si devint chisnes, dont n'en ose plus faire. Li chisnes s'en vola en l'aighe desous Galoches; che fust li chisnes qui mena Elias son frère c'on apielle le chevalier au chisne."

Since in this poem the original number of the seven Swan-children has been reduced to four, we must also suppose that such a changing was already owing to the French source of the Italian poet, and that logical reasons did not induce the latter to make the alteration.

The literary references of Varnhagen may be supplemented by Prato, 'Quattro Novelline Popolari Livornesi' (Spoleto, 1880) who gives numerous comparative notes and calls (p. 107) the "Storia della Regina Stella e Mattabruna" a "riproduzione" of the "Histoire miraculeuse du Chevalier au Cygne."

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### NOT SO VERY AMERICAN.

IN Dr. Fitzedward Hall's remarks on "The American Dialect" (the *Academy*, March 25, 1893, pp. 265-7) there is a recognition of two kinds of Americanisms,—“tolerable” and “intolerable.” The former are noticed only by allusions here and there; the latter are commented on at some length, and illustrated by very numerous quotations taken from an American schoolbook. As it is my purpose to show that many of the locutions supposed by Dr. Hall to be Americanisms are not peculiarly American, I will first make the fact evident that they were cited as such by Dr. Hall.

In his letter to the *Academy*, Dr. Hall says:

"To return to Mr. — [the author of the schoolbook previously referred to], it would be idle to contend that his Americanisms have not, in large share, the countenance of all our later writers of any conspicuous note, a mere handful of them, the very choicest, omitted from account. And even these Americanize in some measure. Indeed, if they did otherwise, in addition to perplexing most of their readers, they would occasionally be chargeable, not unfairly, with affectation. In so saying, I, of course, imply that our linguistic innovations, some of which have established themselves ineradicably, and are, in fact, indispensable, are by no means to be condemned without exception. At present, however, without undertaking the defence of such of them as are defensible, I limit myself to deprecating those which are indefensible, either as being entirely gratuitous or on other grounds equally valid. Of innovations of this description, which so commonly disfigure American English, the number, I repeat, is very great. Manifestly, then, their diffusion and their constant increase call for grave consideration. That a duty devolves on us, in connexion with them, is what I would suggest by this slight paper."—P. 266, 3d. column.

These remarks follow a digression in which Dr. Hall speaks of the difficulty he has experienced in unlearning his American English. In returning to Mr. —, Dr. Hall returns to the American writer whose schoolbook has supplied him with all his dialectic examples except one. In the introductory part of his letter (p. 265), Dr. Hall tells us that

"genuine English is no longer, practically, our portion. . . Instances are most abundant in which we [Americans] have, instead of its words and phrases, substitutes for them. Of